

## Keep the fire in the pit!

Outdoor cooking has become a tradition in Houston. sometime these festive occasions are turned into tragedy when the fire gets out of the pit. There have been some serious injuries and fires caused from barbecue pits.

Your neighbors in the Houston Fire Department would like to remind you of some of the safety precautions to take when barbecuing. There have been so many houses set of fire by barbecue pits that the Houston Fire Code addresses them. It states "Barbecue pits outside of buildings shall not



be located within 10 feet of combustible walls, roofs, or other combustible material". You can be given a ticket for a fire code violation. These violations have a fine of at least \$250!

When starting your barbecue fire please use charcoal lighter, NOT gasoline.

Gasoline can flash violently in and around the pit causing serious injuries to anyone in the area of the flash.

It is a good idea to have a fire extinguisher or charged garden hose handy while the fire is going.

Check the pit frequently to insure that it is okay.

When the meal is over and you are cleaning up, please do not dump the coals in the trash can. Soak them in water before disposing of them.

So, let's work together to keep the fire in the pit!

If you have any questions, please call the Houston Fire Department's Public Education Division at (713) 865-7120 or visit our website at <a href="https://www.houstonfire.org">www.houstonfire.org</a>